

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 13586 271040Z
ACTION DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 OES-09 EB-08 /028 W
-----089572 280546Z /10
R 270907Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9933

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DEPT. PASS TO DOT FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETLN, TECH, JA
SUBJECT: JNR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DOT/FRA AND AMTRACK
NECP

1. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH ECONCOUNS AND SCICOUNS, ISHIHARA OF JNR HAS INDICATED ONCE AGAIN THAT JNR IS TRYING HARD TO PERSUADE GOJ TO ALLOCATE FUNDS WHICH WOULD ENABLE JNR TO PROVIDE SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AMTRACK NORTHEAST CORRIDOR PROJECT. SERVICES OF MINISTER USHIBA (SPECIAL GOJ REPRESENTATIVE ON TRADE MATTERS) HAVE BEEN ENLISTED TO PERSUADE MINISTRIES OF TRANSPORT AND FINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR THIS PURPOSE. DELAYS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED DUE TO PERSONNEL CHANGEOVER IN MOT, QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT WHY ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE PROVIDED AT NO EXPENSE TO U.S., FEELING THAT EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE IS NOT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONVINCE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS OF NEED FOR ASSISTANCE, AND DOUBTS THAT JNR AND FRA COULD REACH MUTUALLY AGREEABLE ARRANGEMENT.

2. JNR HAS LEARNED THAT FRA IS NOW STUDYING REDIRECTION OF ITS PROGRAM AND MUST SUBMIT REVISED PROGRAM PLAN TO CONGRESS BY END OF YEAR. JNR THEREFORE BELIEVES THAT ITS
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 13586 271040Z

POTENTIAL ASSISTANCE TO FRA SHOULD BE FIRMED UP SOON SO THAT FRA CAN MADE APPROPRIATE REFERENCE TO IT IN REVISED PLAN. ONLY WAY LEFT TO PERSUADE GOJ TO FINANCE EFFORT, ACCORDING TO ISHIHARA, IS TO HAVE RELATIVELY FORMAL REQUEST FOR JNR ASSISTANCE COME THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNEL FROM FRA--THAT IS, FRA TO DOT TO STATE TO EMBASSY, FOR DELIVERY TO MOFA AND MOT. EMBOFFS AGREED TO PASS ON

THIS LATEST IDEA TO WASHINGTON BUT WERE NONCOMMITTAL ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS.

3. ISHIHARA ALSO REPORTED THAT HE HAD HEARD THAT FRA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR GALLAMORE IS EXPECTED TO VISIT JAPAN IN SEPTEMBER ON HIS RETURN FROM A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA. HE

EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FRA OFFICIAL WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS JNR OFFER IN DEPTH AT THAT TIME.

4. REQUEST ADVISE ON HOW TO RESPOND TO JNR PROPOSAL PARA 2 ABOVE.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO HAVE JNR AND FRA WORK OUT PROGRAM FOR SHARING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TERMS, BUT WE FRANKLY QUESTION APPROPRIATENESS OF SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR GRANT AID AS IF U.S. WERE AN LDC--AS GOJ AGENCIES SEEM TO WANT. MANSFIELD

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NNN

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